Accumulation of Sugar Stock in Tamil Nadu

724. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large quantity of sugar is accumulated in Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Nadu government is bringing pressure to the Central Government for early clearance of the stock;

(b) if so, what is the total quantity of sugar accumulated in Tamil Nadu and what is the total quantity accumulated in other States;

(c) what arc the reasons for such unprecedented accumulation of sugar; and

(d) what are the plans contemplated by the Central Government to clear the accumulated stock of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) There has been a record production of sugar in the country during 1994-95 sugar season (October-September). The stocks of sugar held by the sugar factories located in a state arc dependent upon their production and releases of sugar under levy and free sale quotas. The Statewise stocks of sugar held by the sugar factories as on 30.11.1995 is annexed as statement *(See* below). The stocks of sugar in the State of Tamil Nadu arc less than the stocks of the States of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Out of the total stocks of 5.12 lakhs tonnes of Tamil Nadu State, 2.45 lakh tonnes arc earmarked for export. The remaining quantity of sugar is likely to be exhausted by January, 1966.

So far, no specific request from the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding early clearance of sugar stocks has been received by the Ministry of Food.

Statement

Statewise Stocks of Sugar held by the-Sugar Factories as on 30.11.1995

S.No.	State/U.T.	Stock (MTs)
1.	Punjab	0.61
2.	Haryana	0.36
3.	Rajasthan	0.01
4.	Uttar Pradesh	5.78
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.13
6.	Gujarat	0.88
7.	Maharashtra	11.97
8.	Bihar	0.51
9.	Assam	0.01
10.	Orissa	0.09
11.	West Bengal	0.02
12.	Nagaland	—
13.	Andhra Pradesh	1.53
14.	Karnataka	3.46
15.	Tamil Nadu	5.12
16.	Pondicherry	0.13
17.	Kerala	0.02
18.	Goa	0.03
	Total All India (-)	30.66
	Tamil Nadu (-)	5.12
	Total other States	25.54

Visit of Business Delegation to Pakistan

725. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether a business delegation from FICCI has lately visited Pakistan to create a substantive second track of dialogue between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof in terms of trade likely to follow between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) An Septembers

business delegation from FICCI visited Pakistan from September 24-26, 1995, on invitation from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, to participate in a seminar on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

(b) It is not possible to anticipate or quantify the likely trade flow as u result of the visit.

Coal reserves in India

726. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has vast coal reserves;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of India is importing coal;

(c) if so. what is the percentage of coal being imported to that of total indigenous production;

(d) what is the total coal consumption and requirement in the country; and

(c) whether import of coal is cost-effective?

THE MINISTR OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY- OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As on 1.1.95, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has established about 200 billion tonnes of coal reserves in scams 0.9 metre and above in thickness and down to depth of 1200 metres in different parts of the country.

(b) No, Sir. Coal is imported directly by the consumers under Open General Licence (OGL).

(c) During 1994-95. 11.49 million tonnes of coal amounting to 4.53% of the total indigenous production was imported.

(d) Demand of coal during 1994-95 as assessed py Planning Commission was 273.50 million tonnes (including 5.00 million tonnes of washcry middlings) and the total off-take of coal was 263.31 million tonnes (including 2.67 millio tonnes of washcry middlings).

(e) It is not possible to make a genen assessment about cost effectiveness u imported coal which inter-alia depend upon factors like specific customc requirement, quality of coal, prcvailin international price vis-a-vis indigenou availability and location of the consume from the source of supply etc.

More job opportunities in Punjab

727. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will th Minister of PLANNING ANI PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIOr be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose ti take some appropriate corrective steps to create more opportunities of jobs to th poor people in the State of Punjab durin the next two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THI MINISTRY OF PLANNING ANI PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTAT (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) (a) to (d) No new programme for and generation, of employment for the poor under consideration of the Plannin, Commission. Employment generation Punjab or for that matter in any State primarily a function of the pace and pattern of development in the State am an employment strategy appropriate to the State has to be drawn up am implemented by the State Government The Central Government supplement the efforts of the State Govcrnmcn through the various Central Sector am Centrally Sponsored Special Employmcn Programmes.

Two major Centrally sponsors Programmes which arc bcin implemented to increase the employmcn opportunities for the rural poo